

Message Text

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ACTION ABF-01

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 A-01 SSO-00 L-03 IO-13 EB-07

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FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7569

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: AGAO, EAIR

SUBJECT: GAO REVIEW: USG ASSISTANCE TO US INTERNATIONAL
AIRLINES

REF: STATE 200235

1. FOUR MAN GAO TEAM (REFTEL) FROM FRANKFURT OFFICE
ARRIVED LONDON NOV. 8; PLANS REMAIN TO NOV. 24.
2. IN CONNECTION WITH GAO INTERVIEWS OF US CARRIER REPS
IN LONDON, PANAM REP TOLD US NOV. 11 THAT HE HAD BEEN
INSTRUCTED BY PANAM HEADQUARTERS TO ARRANGE FOR
MR. BERNSDORF OF GAO WASHINGTON TO MEET WITH BRITISH
AIRWAYS (BA) REPRESENTATIVES IN LONDON NOV. 19, 3 P.M.
PANAM LONDON REP ASKED THAT GAO TEAM CONFIRM THIS TIME.
BERNSDORF APPARENTLY HAD ASKED PANAM TO ARRANGE MEETING.
3. GAO TEAM LEADER (BURR) SAID HE HAD NOT BEEN INFORMED
OF PROPOSED MEETING. HE HAD, WE KNOW, INFORMED HIS
OFFICE AT FRANKFURT THAT EMBASSY LONDON RECOMMENDED
AGAINST ANY GAO MEETINGS WITH UK GOVERNMENT OR BA OFFI-
CIALS IN VIEW OF SENSITIVE RENEGOTIATION OF BERMU:DA
AGREEMENT IN WHICH WE NOW INVOLVED WITH UK. THIS ALSO
IN ACCORDANCE WITH DEPARTMENT INSTRUCTIONS PARA (3)
REFTEL.

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4. BURR HAS CALLED HIS OFFICE AT FRANKFURT NOTING CON-

CERN ABOUT PROPOSED BERNSDORF/BA MEETING SINCE HE
HAD ALREADY GOTTEN AGREEMENT FROM HIS SUPERIORS AT
FRANKFURT THAT TEAM WOULD NOT APPROACH UK OFFICIALS.
GAO FRANKFURT IS TO CHECK WITH BERNSDORF'S OFFICE IN
/WAASHINGTON TO TRY TO CLARIFY MATTER.

5. COMMENT: LOCAL GAO TEAM HAS ACCEPTED DEPARTMENT'S
AND EMBASSY'S VIEW ON MEETINGS WITH UK OFFICIALS DES-
CRIBED PARA (3) REFTEL. UNLESS EXCEPTIONAL CIRCUMSTANCES
ARISE, WE EXPECT THEY WILL NOT ASK FOR SUCH MEETINGS.

6. ACTION: REQUEST DEPARTMENT DETERMINE WHAT MR.
BERNSDORF'S PLANS ARE AND INFORM EMBASSY IF, IN FACT,
DEPARTMENT HAS AGREED TO HIS PROPOSED MEETING WITH BA
OFFICIALS.

ARMSTRONG

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